

*Press Release – For immediate release*

*Supporting innovation in media arts*

**The Canadian government extends the financing of the  
Hexagram Institute for Research/Creation in Media Arts and Technologies**

**Montreal, May 31, 2006** – The **Hexagram** Institute for Research/Creation in Media Arts and Technologies announces that the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec has made a non-refundable contribution of \$880,592 to support research and creation in media arts. This new contribution increases the Economic Development Agency's support for **Hexagram** and brings the institute's total financial aid to \$3.7 million.

Mr. Alban Asselin, **Hexagram**'s Executive Manager, was delighted with the direct collaboration between the Agency and his organisation as he explained, "This support has allowed **Hexagram** to make Montreal the centre for creation/research in media arts in the university environment."

"Our support for **Hexagram** reflects our desire to consolidate Montreal's enviable position in the new knowledge economy," declared the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Labour and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada. "The development of the **Hexagram** Research Institute over the last few years relies on Montreal's advantages as a university centre and gathering point for many companies involved in communications, radio broadcasting, arts and new media," the Minister added.

For his part, the Honourable Michael Fortier, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, and minister responsible of the Greater Montreal, on behalf of Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn, emphasizes that "this support for **Hexagram** contributes to the development of Montreal as a centre for excellence in new computer technologies, communications and media."

**Hexagram** is the largest Canadian university consortium devoted to research/creation in media arts. Founded by the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and Concordia University, it brings together 75 artist-researchers from the university community, assisted by more than 350 undergraduate and graduate students, who explore the use and development of technologies in a variety of media: film, television, digital imagery, theatre and performing arts, interactive games, etc.

**Hexagram**'s key institutional and public partners are Valorisation-Recherche Québec (VRQ), Canada Economic Development, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'innovation, et de l'exportation (MDEIE), the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture (FQRSC), UQAM, Concordia University, the Centre inter-universitaire des arts médiatiques (CIAM), as well as the Ministère des Affaires municipales, du Sport et du Loisir du Québec. Private partners include the Cirque du Soleil, the Daniel Langlois Foundation for arts, science and technology, the Gillett Entertainment Group and Clear Channel Entertainment.

[www.hexagram.org](http://www.hexagram.org)

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